

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15-20 are amended and new Claims 21-36 are added by the present amendment. As Amended Claims 1, 8, and 15-20 and new Claims 21-36 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Mancuso et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,304, herein “Mancuso”); Claims 1, 3-6, 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Miyatake et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,262, herein “Miyatake”) in view of Mancuso; Claims 8, 10-13, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fukushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,303, herein “Fukushima”) in view of Mancuso; Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Miyatake in view of Mancuso and further in view of Fukushima; Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fukushima in view of Mancuso and further in view of Miyatake; Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fukushima in view of Mancuso.

Initially, applicants and applicants’ representative thank Primary Examiner Vu and Examiner Daniels for the interview held on July 12, 2005 to discuss the present case. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and the cited references were discussed in detail, and amendments as submitted herein were discussed to clarify the discussed differences. The Examiners agreed that the claims as amended herein overcome the rejections of record.

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 10, line 20 to page 12, line 3 and page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 20 and Figures 3 and 5.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Mancuso, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, “wherein said operation instruction signals include translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image.”

In contrast, Mancuso discloses a digital camera in which a user is only able to enter system parameters, such as turning on or off a panorama mode and entering a type of panorama mode.² The digital camera disclosed by Mancuso determines where the images are located with respect to one another automatically, rather than based on a user input.³ Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Mancuso does not teach or suggest that “operation instruction signals include translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Since Mancuso does not teach each and every element of Claim 1, Claim 1 (and Claims 2-7, 21, and 22 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Mancuso and is patentable thereover.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that neither Miyatake nor Fukushima teach or suggest that “operation instruction signals include translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image.” Consequently, as Claims 8 and 15-20 recite similar features to Claim 1, it is further respectfully submitted that Claims 8 and 15-20 (and Claims 9-14 and 23-36 dependent therefrom) patentably define over any combination of Mancuso, Miyatake, and Fukushima.

New Claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 are dependent on Claims 1, 8, and 15-20, respectively, and are supported, for example, in the specification at page 10, line 20 to page 12, line 3 and by Figure 3. As new Claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 are dependent on Claims 1, 8, and 15-20, new Claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

²See Mancuso, column 7, line 61 to column 8, line 18.

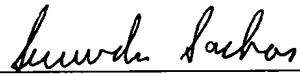
³See Mancuso, column 9, lines 15-28.

New Claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36 are dependent on Claims 1, 8, and 15-20, respectively, and are supported, for example, in the specification at page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 20 and by Figure 5. As new Claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36 are dependent on Claims 1, 8, and 15-20, new Claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, and 36 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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